

REMARKS

This is in response to the office action dated September 17, 2004.

Applicants note paragraphs 1 and 2 of the September 17, 2004 office action.

New claims 8-11 have been added so as to claim the subject matter of claims 1-7.

New claims 8-11 avoid the rejection under paragraph 2 of 35 U.S.C. Section 112.

New claims 8-11 are not anticipated or suggested by the '714 patent to Moritz because Moritz lacks a second connecting rod having a first end having a first convex portion thereon and a second end having a second convex portion thereon. Nor do the alleged side plates 2 of Moritz include concavities at the outer peripheral extent thereof. Nor does the alleged connecting rod 3 of Moritz completely enclose and hermetically seal the cable. Nor does the alleged connecting rod 3 have the required convex portions. Rather, Moritz's member 3 has concave openings at 37. In regard to claim 9, the alleged connecting rod 3 does not have the required pawls thereon. In regard to claim 10, Moritz lacks the convex portions as stated above. In regard to claim 11, Moritz does not employ elastic seals.

New claims 8-11 are not anticipated or suggested by the '961 patent to Schumann because Schumann's retaining means 22 does not extend from link body to link body. Rather, the retaining means 22 of Schumann leaves the conductor support wide open for dust and debris to enter and exit. Schumann does not teach or suggest a seal made of elastic material.

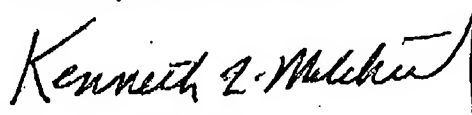
New claims 8-11 are not anticipated or suggested by the '072 patent to Weber

because Weber does not teach or suggest elastic seals. Further, Weber does not teach or suggest convex portions on the second connecting rod as set forth in claim 8. Nor does Weber teach or suggest pawls on each end of the second connecting rods as set forth in claim 9. Nor does Weber teach or suggest pawl grooves in each end of the side plates as set forth in claim 9. Nor does Weber teach or suggest convex and concave portions fitted into each other in a tapered manner as set forth in claim 10.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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